

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

THE PRESENT INVENTION

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 28, an information displaying apparatus comprises a headword display control unit for displaying headwords found by a headword searching unit in list form within a first display area of a display device and for displaying, at portions corresponding to the respective found headwords, respective portions of the explanations of the word meanings of each of the found headwords in list form within a second display area of the display device. Each of the portions of the explanations have a predetermined number of characters derived from a beginning of the explanation, and the predetermined number of characters is determined such that each of the portions is of a size that can be displayed within the second display area of the display device. According to claim 28, moreover, a headword designating unit is provided for designating one of the headwords displayed in the first display area of the display device by the headword display control unit.

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 28, the information displaying apparatus comprises an explanation display control unit for: (i) when a

headword is designated by the headword designating unit, deriving a predetermined number of characters from a beginning of the explanation of each of the word meanings of the designated headword, wherein the predetermined number of characters are determined such that the predetermined number of characters can be displayed within the second display area of the display device, (ii) displaying the predetermined number of characters of the explanations of word meanings of the designated headword in list form within the second display area of the display device, in place of a range of the explanations of the word meanings of the found headwords displayed in the second display area of the display device by the headword display control unit, and (iii) displaying a frame corresponding to the designated headword so as to surround the designated headword and the predetermined number of characters of each of the explanations of the word meanings of the designated headword.

Independent claim 38, moreover, recites a computer readable recording medium storing a computer program that is executable by a computer to cause the computer to function as units of an information display apparatus in a manner similar to claim 28.

With the structure of the information display apparatus of claim 28 (and the information display apparatus controlled by a computer executing a computer program as recited in claim 38), the retrieved headwords and explanations of word meanings of the

searched headwords are displayed such that a user is allowed to see at a glance the relationship between the headword and its explanation, and even though a portion of each explanation is displayed, the portion includes a predetermined number of characters derived from the beginning of the explanation to an extent such that the predetermined number of characters can be displayed in the second display area of the display device, whereby a list of portions of explanations are displayed in a user-friendly manner.

Independent claim 39, moreover, recites an information displaying apparatus comprising a display device, an information storage which stores a plurality of headwords, each having plural word meanings, and explanations of plural word meanings of each headword, and a search-character input unit for entering a word series including a plurality of words. According to claim 39, a keyword determining unit selects one of a verb, an adjective, and a noun from the word series and determines the selected word as a keyword, and a first headword searching unit searches for the keyword among the headwords stored in the information storage to find at least one headword corresponding to the keyword. An explanation judging unit judges whether or not the word series is included in at least one of the explanations of the headword found by the first headword searching unit. And the information displaying apparatus according to claim 39 comprises a searched-

information display unit for, when the explanation judging unit determines that the word series is included in at least one of the explanations of the at least one headword found by the first headword searching unit, displaying the explanation on the display device as including the word series together with the corresponding headword.

Independent claim 47, moreover, recites a computer readable recording medium storing a computer program that is executable by a computer to cause the computer to function as units of an information display apparatus in a manner similar to claim 39.

With the structure of the present invention recited in independent claim 39 (and the computer program as recited in independent claim 47), a verb, adjective, or noun included in plural entered words is automatically determined as a keyword, and this keyword is searched for. An explanation(s) of the headword(s) corresponding to the searched-for keyword that includes the plural entered words is displayed. Therefore, the user is not required to select a word from the entered words to determine the keyword to be searched for.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 28-47 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of GB 2 336 694 ("Randall"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed.

Re: Independent Claims 28 and 38

Claim 28 recites a headword display control unit which displays headwords (plural) in list form and respective portions of the explanations of the word meanings of each of the found headwords in list form.

Randall does not disclose, teach or suggest this structure recited in claim 28. Indeed, Figs. 4a-4g, 5a-5d and 6 and the corresponding disclosure of Randall disclose displaying one headword or headword phrase (one of leave, leave off, leave out, or land) and plural information items all corresponding to the one displayed headword.

The Examiner asserts that element 21 of Fig. 4a of Randall shows displaying a headword in list form, and the Examiner may consider that the display shown in Fig. 4a of Randall shows plural headwords "leave (noun)" and "leave (verb)." However, Randall does not disclose displaying respective portions of explanations for each of the headwords in list form at portions corresponding to the respective found headwords. That is, even if "leave (noun)" and "leave (verb)" are considered to be plural found headwords, Randall does not disclose displaying a portion of an explanation of a meaning of "leave (noun)" in a portion corresponding to "leave (noun)" and displaying a portion of an explanation of a meaning of "leave (verb)" in a portion corresponding to "leave (verb)."

Moreover, the Examiner asserts that area 22 of Randall corresponds to the second display area recited in claim 28. However, it is respectfully pointed out that Randall only discloses displaying a translation of a single selected word in the area 22. See Figs. 4c, 4e and 4g of Randall. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that area 22 of Randall does not correspond to a second display area in which, at portions corresponding to the respective found headwords, respective portions of the explanations of the word meanings of each of the found headwords are displayed in list form.

In addition, the Examiner cites step S2 in Fig. 3 of Randall with respect to designating a headword. However, this portion of Randall actually discloses selecting a word to be looked up in a dictionary from the displayed text in area 20 (Fig. 4a). See page 12, lines 20-27 of Randall.

By contrast, according to claim 28, the headword designating unit is provided for designating one of the headwords displayed in the first display area of the display device by the headword display control unit. And it is respectfully pointed out that the headwords displayed in the first display area of the display device are words that have been found in the information storage (see claim 28, "a headword display control unit for displaying headwords found by the headword searching unit in list form within the first display area"). Thus, it is respectfully

pointed out that the headword designating unit of claim 28 designates one of a plurality of found headwords. By contrast, step S2 in Fig. 3 of Randall discloses designating a word in text in order to find a matching word in the dictionary.

Still further, claim 28 recites an explanation display control unit an explanation display control unit for: (i) when a headword is designated by the headword designating unit, deriving a predetermined number of characters from a beginning of the explanation of each of the word meanings of the designated headword, wherein the predetermined number of characters are determined such that the predetermined number of characters can be displayed within the second display area of the display device, (ii) displaying the predetermined number of characters of the explanations of word meanings of the designated headword in list form within the second display area of the display device, in place of a range of the explanations of the word meanings of the found headwords displayed in the second display area of the display device by the headword display control unit, and (iii) displaying a frame corresponding to the designated headword so as to surround the designated headword and the predetermined number of characters of each of the explanations of the word meanings of the designated headword.

It is respectfully pointed out that the portion of Randall cited by the Examiner as disclosing designating a headword by the

headword designating unit does not actually disclose this feature of claim 28. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that the area 22 of Randall does not display a number of characters of plural explanations in list form, but rather displays a designated meaning and word translation of the designated meaning. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Randall does not disclose displaying the predetermined number of characters of the explanations of word meanings of the designated headword in list form within the second display area of the display device. Still further, as explained above Randall does not disclose displaying explanations of word meanings of the found headwords (plural) in list form in the second display area by a headword display control unit. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Randall does not disclose displaying the predetermined number of characters of the explanations of word meanings of the designated headword in list form within the second display area of the display device, in place of a range of the explanations of the word meanings of the found headwords displayed in the second display area of the display device by the headword display control unit.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that it is not clear what is meant by the Examiner's assertion that in Randall "a frame is designated for the verb or noun associated with the headword" (Office Action page 4). According to claim 28, the

frame surrounds the designated headword and the predetermined number of characters of each of the explanations of the word meanings of the designated headword. A "frame [] designated for the verb or noun associated with the headword" does not appear to correspond to this feature of claim 28.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Randall clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of independent claim 28 (and in particular the headword display control unit and the explanation display control unit). In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Randall similarly fails to disclose, teach or suggest the features of independent claim 38.

Independent Claims 39 and 47

The Examiner's comments with respect to claims 39 and 47 (pages 9-10 and 13 of the Office Action) do not appear to relate to claims 39 and 47.

For example, the Examiner refers to a frame, which is recited in claims 28 and 38, but not in claims 39 and 47. In addition, the Examiner appears to refer to a predetermined number of characters that is determined such that each of the portions is of a size that can be displayed within the second display area of the display device. Although this feature is recited in claims 28 and 38, it is not recited in claims 39 and 47.

Moreover, claims 39 and 47 recite a search-character input unit for entering a word series including a plurality of words, and a keyword determining unit for selecting one of a verb, an adjective, and a noun from the word series and determining the selected word as a keyword. And according to claims 39 and 47, the keyword is search for to find at least one headword corresponding to the keyword (the "first headword searching unit").

The Examiner mentions truncating a designated word to be looked-up on pages 9-10 and 13 of the Office Action. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that truncating a single word clearly differs from inputting a series of words and selecting one of the words as a keyword, as recited in claims 39 and 47.

Moreover, the Examiner has not at all addressed the explanation judging unit and the searched-information display unit recited in claims 39 and 47, and it is respectfully submitted that Randall does not, in fact, disclose, teach or suggest these features recited in claims 39 and 47.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 28, 38, 39 and 47, as well as each of claims 29-37 and 40-46 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over Randall under 35 USC 103.

Entry of this Response, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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